

# THE POINT

THE FITCHBURG STATE COLLEGE NEWSPAPER

ISSUE #8

SPRING 2002

WEEK OF APRIL 25TH

## The information breakdown lane

By Andy Levine

The internet is the gateway of digital communication. How the students here at Fitchburg State College ride the information superhighway is becoming an issue looming large due to the fact most of the network's users are ending up in the breakdown lane.

The instability of the school provided internet service to the students, faculty, and administration has become a reason for concern among the parties who govern such issues. The bodies who have been dealing with this problem consist of Campus Living, the Student Government Association (SGA), and the MIS Computer Department.

"We were not ready for this level of use," claims MIS help desk administrator Sherry Horeanopoulos. The level of usage being commented on is in reference to a time not long ago when the school was only using two T1 lines to serve the entire school.

To give a comparison of how fast a T1 line is in simple terms, think about what you have at home to connect to the internet. If you connect using a dial-up modem, the next fastest way would be a DSL line. A DSL line is still a connection through a phone line, but much faster than through the slower modem. The connection that outperforms DSL is a cable modem using broadband technology to have users connect to the internet through a cable wire. After the cable modem service comes a T1 line. This form of connection is mainly used for colleges and businesses that need a high-speed option and a stable way

of networking (having the computers connected to that particular line be able to talk to each other and share files) its systems users together.

The school and its two T1 lines became flooded with a heavy amount of usage on both lines. This then caused individuals restricted access because all of the bandwidth (the amount of transmission time it takes to download a website or an e-mail) contained in the two lines was being used up. Normally the amount of bandwidth that comes along with two T1 lines should provide a steady flow of internet access for a campus environment like the one here at FSC. Problems arose when two things occurred. First, due to the lowering price of computers, more students came to school this year with computers ready to connect to the school internet connection. The second part of the problem is that a lot of users were using the school hardware to download and stream music and movies.

When a user streams or downloads a movie or music, they use up an above average amount of bandwidth. As so many kept on taking up that amount of bandwidth, the net-



A lonely computer desiring a faster internet.

work other lines that were already installed were then dedicated to the faculty and administration. What came to follow the ongoing slow speeds that the students were facing, were voiced complaints to the governing bodies. Students started to leave voice messages stating in sometimes a vulgar aggravated way how the internet is giving them problems. After so many messages were received, especially during a weekend some time ago where the network was down from Friday until Monday, action was starting to form in ways how to fix the situation. Coincidentally, when the network was down that weekend, it was a faulty router (a piece of computer hardware that directs connections to different computers) that failed, not the actual network.

Campus Living and SGA are the bodies involved trying to fix this problem. Both sides have met in order to discuss and hopefully come up with an agreed upon resolution. A few other offices are also involved in the mix to mediate and advise on the situation. MIS is a party involved and is there to advise the technical aspects for the situation and the future of the internet at this higher education institution.

"We are the facilitator to get various committees to identify issues and resolve them," comments Dean Dr. Kathleen Simons on her and her office's position on the situation. "We as users have to understand the traffic of internet usage at this school," Simons goes on to say to all who use the schools internet access. There were however a few rather odd findings when doing research to

work was overloaded with people wanting to use the connection, and it would only allow users a first come first

serve connection basis. This posed a problem to the students because they had trouble doing academic research and also personal internet use such as checking email and browsing websites. It also proved costly to the faculty. Teachers who needed to download articles and research for class material were unable to, therefore be unprepared for class. Certain teachers canceled classes due to the fact that they could not get on to the internet for such reasons.

"As such the administration made a decision to purchase a dedicated T1 line for the residence halls in order to best meet the needs of all constituencies of the campus network," writes Associate Dean/Director of Campus Living Jay Bry in a letter posted in the resident halls.

Though it helped, this did not provide a suitable solution to such a problem. Instead of students having two T1 lines to work from, they only were able to access one. The two

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# Letter from the Editor

I went home this weekend. It's a rare occasion for me. After the never-ending car ride I reached my destination. Upon my arrival, my dad announced that he had a surprise for me. "Oooh! What is it?" I exclaimed. He went over to the refrigerator and pulled out a bottle of purple ketchup. I guess you have to understand the weirdness of my family to know why I loved it.

Purple ketchup. It's great. Who comes up with these ideas? I made sure to try this strange new and bright condiment on my taylor ham and cheese sandwich, a delicacy unavailable in these parts.

The last time I was home my dad surprised us with green ketchup. Purposely to disgust my mother, my brother and I mixed the colors and formed what looked like a kindergarten finger paint on our plates. Then to add to the excitement we used the now plain and boring red ketchup in our works of edible arts.

Now that we have ketchup in these wondrous colors, I doubt I can go back to the original red. But who decided that red isn't good enough? I'm sure the Heinz company isn't suffering and forced to resort to this strange alteration of their product.

Face it. We are a strange people, with a strange taste. Take for example, the Slinky. It's a wonderful toy. But again who decided that some sort

of condensed mattress spring would provide hours of entertainment for all ages?

It makes me wonder how much free time some people have on their hands. And then how delirious their superiors are for attributing funds to these cockamamie ideas.

Another example: piercing. Now if we get down to the details here, we are punching holes in our heads, our ears, our noses, are belly buttons, and a few other unmentionable areas. We punch holes in our bodies with and instrument called a GUN and then stick metal through them. This is considered cool. I admit, I do have my ears pierced and love shopping for earrings, but this has become a must have. The other day I saw a baby that couldn't have been more than a few months old and she even had her ears pierced. Holes and metal has become the norm rather than the bodies with which we are provided.

What's worse than having all these strange ideas and inventions is that we PAY for them. We PAY for someone to put holes in our body. We PAY for a spring. And, we pay MORE for ketchup in alternate colors. It's crazy. Crazier than this New England weather.

However, the smile on a small child's face while playing with the Slinky, **Continued on page 3**

## Animals meet their fate at the crossroads

By Sharlene K. Gugarty

I've been spending a lot of time with my youngest daughter lately. She's just 9 years old - not at the point where she already knows more than I do (that comes in another year or two), so she's been peppering me with questions about her favorite subject: animals. Saturday she posed the eternal question, "Why did the turkey cross the road?"

What's that you say? It should be "Why did the chicken cross the road?" No. In this case, it was a turkey - a dead one on the shoulder of 495 South somewhere near Wrentham. This magnificent wild bird, at least a 20 - pounder by my guess, had apparently lost a race with a car and was on its way to being an entre for the crows and other scavengers that prowl our highways.

While I didn't know why this particular bird chose to cross the road

(although we were pretty close to that premium outlet mall), I started thinking about the other creatures I'd seen recently who'd overestimated their speed and ended up roadkill. In my neighborhood it seemed the squirrels had entered into some sort of suicide pact. You can't drive 100 yards without spotting one with its little legs up in the air in the throws of classic cartoon-style death.

During my commute to class I frequently see possum and raccoons who have lost their lives near a wildlife refuge. Once there was even a coyote by the roadside. Last spring, when the Nashua River was so high it sloshed over part of my commuting route, I actually saw a couple of beaver who had apparently tried to swim across the road and didn't make it. It seems there are more casualties on Monday mornings, perhaps the animals are lulled into a sense of security by

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All articles must be typed or legibly handwritten and include a name and phone number in case of questions. All letters in response to an article must be submitted within two days after the article is published.

Announcements should be short, including dates, places, times and a contact person.

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# Shiny, slimy and springy things

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the baby attracted to the shiny things on her ears, and the giggle of a shared moment with my dad over purple ketchup might just be worth those extra bucks. We the consumers don't pay for the metal spring, or the colored ketchup. We pay for these moments. These things make our often bleak days a little brighter. If there is nothing strange, how do we know what is normal? We are all a little bit crazy, a little bit strange. It offers an alternative to some of the mundane things in life. The silly parts of life give us reasons to make the sometimes forced smile on our faces a natural smile.

That said, when Heinz releases its new blue ketchup, I will be more than willing to buy a bottle for my dad. And, again to disgust my mother, I will be sure to create a masterpiece encompassing the rainbow of the red, the green, the purple and the blue ketchup.

Amy S. Bobrowski  
Editor-in-Chief

The Point would like to make the following correction from issue #7:

FSC's admissions counselors are Cynthia Campbell, Abigail Dapice, Cherie Fisher, Scott Gauthier, and Amy Lee. Rob McGann serves as the Dean of Enrollment Services. Gauthier also serves as Assistant Director of Admissions, while Lee is the Transfer/Adult Coordinator. We apologize for any inconvenience.

## A bump in the road of animal life

Continued from page 2

the lighter weekend traffic and let their guard down.

So who do you ask if you have questions about roadkill statistics? I turned to the Massachusetts Audubon Society's staff at Drumlin Farm in Lincoln. The helpful folks there were happy to share their knowledge about the mating habits of our woodland neighbors. It seems the causes of so many senseless deaths on our highways and byways are food and sex.

In spring, a young squirrel's fancy turns to thoughts of love (sound familiar?). While squirrels are very territorial and tend to remain in their own neighborhood most of the year, during their mating season they stray from their familiar backyards in search of romance. Spring is, for many squirrels, the first time they encounter traffic since they frequently will stake out their turf in a series of adjacent yards and trees rather than cross the road.

Once the squirrel has found its true love, the female must begin building her nests. It seems one nest is never enough, so she may construct as many as half a dozen.

Squirrels build nests high in trees using twigs, string and lots of leaves. The leaves are frequently infested with ants, fleas or other parasites, so the female squirrel will frequently move herself and her babies from nest to nest to get away from the bugs. All the dashing around searching for leaves, moving stored acorns and scavenging for bits of string to decorate with may lead the female back and forth across the road a hundred times or more.

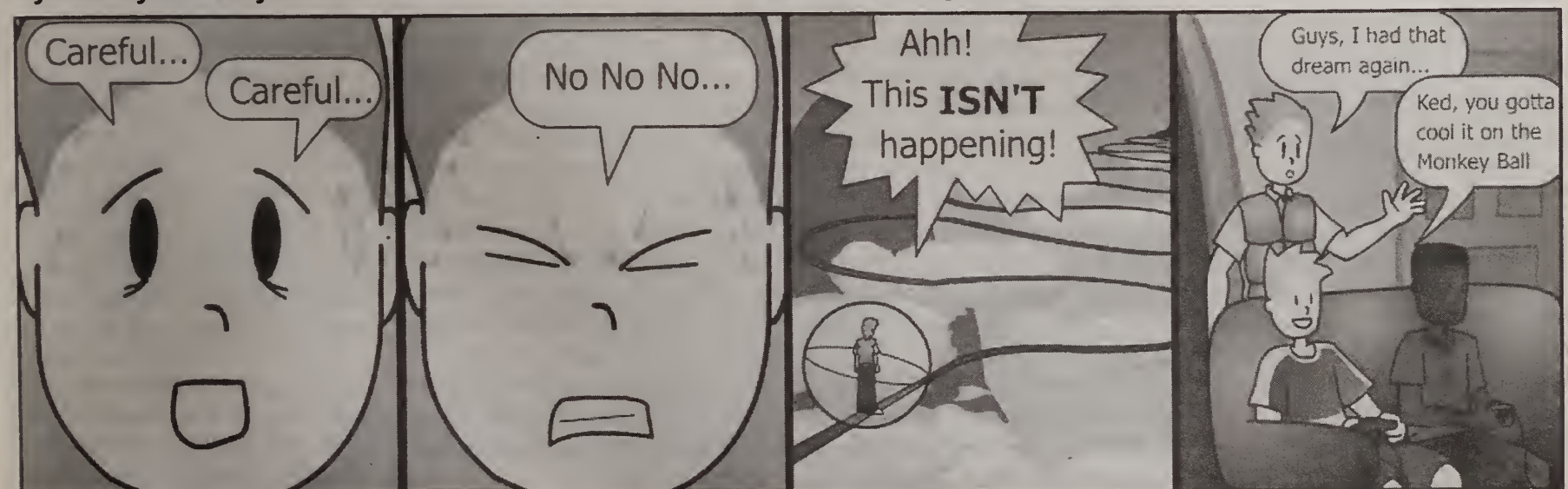
Some other animals emerge from hibernation in spring and just aren't awake enough when they first encounter a street. Others are just babies, experiencing everything for the very first time. Baby skunks, I have been told, are particularly clumsy and account for a majority of the odiferous accidents on our streets.

So, the next time you're driving to school and you see a squirrel at the roadside, don't think of those conniving rodents in the insurance company commercial plotting to run you off the road. Its probably just some squirrel's mother redecorating.

## Thinking Impaired

By Kelsey Doherty

[www.thinkingimpaired.com](http://www.thinkingimpaired.com)





# Site visit's a credit to FSC

By Sharlene K. Gugarty

What do Harvard University, MIT and FSC have in common? All three schools are accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, an association whose mission since 1885 has been to establish and maintain high standards for all levels of education. On April 7, a group from NEASC began a comprehensive evaluation of FSC. During the three-day visit from April 7 to 10, the NEASC team spoke with representatives from the faculty, administration and staff in addition to student groups and random students. They visited the campus buildings, observed classes and reviewed a room full of documents detailing course offerings, budget parameters and teaching models. This was the first NEASC visit since 1992.

In 1992, Whitney Houston was on top of the charts, "Unforgiven" was named best picture at the Academy Awards and the other George Bush was in the White House. Closer to home, Massachusetts was weathering an economic downturn as area businesses closed, moved or restructured. Public higher education's fortunes rose and fell with the politics of the time.

Following an extensive self-study, FSC was visited by a NEASC team that met with students, administrators, faculty and staff. The group evaluated not only the academic policies of the college, but also the services offered for students, the condition of the buildings and grounds and the college's plans for the future.

Over the past 10 years, interim reports have been made to NEASC. A 1997 letter from NEASC to FSC President Michael Riccards "commends the College for its progress in addressing the areas of concern identified in the 1992 comprehensive evaluation."

With its designation by the Board of Higher Education as the Leader-

ship College in 1997, FSC has included in its mission statement its emphasis on the importance of leadership, service learning, civic responsibilities, ethical developments, diversity and international education. Not only was an Honors Program, The Leadership Academy, established, but themes of leadership and community service extend throughout the campus.

In recent years, the college has expanded its Cultural Series for the local community, most notably through the AmeriCulture Arts Festival, and continues to work with City of Fitchburg officials on the revitalization projects planned and underway for the downtown area. The Volunteer Center works closely with the mayor's office to coordinate programs within the city including parties for city children, clean-up campaigns in city parks and organized play sessions. Forging this bond between the City of Fitchburg and the college has been a priority for FSC President Michael Riccards.

In spite of announced cuts in funding from the Commonwealth, the AmeriCulture Festival will see no cutbacks because it is privately funded. Additionally, renovations for the Performing Arts Center, which was purchased in 2001, are funded separately from general college operations and will be unaffected by the budget considerations.

Further evidence of the college's commitment to the city of Fitchburg is the planned science and technology center which will be constructed at the downtown end of North Street, bringing another segment of the college population closer to the city.

While the NEASC team is sensitive to the fluctuations public colleges experience due to their dependence upon government funding, that in no way compromises the quality of education provided by those schools. The 1992 evaluation

cited deficiencies in the FSC library and information systems, some physical problems with the older buildings, and shortfalls in the college curriculum and student services.

Since 1992, the library has expanded its collections and its computer systems. Multiple databases are available both online and in the library for student, faculty and staff access. Additionally, the library staff works in congress with MIS and ACMS departments to assure technology and the education in its use is available for all faculty and students.

Older campus buildings have undergone renovations that were both cosmetic and structural. Dormitory suites were created in Aubuchon Hall during the summer of 2001. Other living quarters will be renovated during the summer of 2002. Modifications have been made to other campus buildings to make them more accessible to disabled students, staff and visitors, including the installation of an elevator in Thompson Hall.

Three separate college departments address student services: Student Affairs, Academic Affairs and Financial Aid. Working together, these departments provide support services for all aspects of student life. Student Affairs is the umbrella under which the Athletic Department, Student Activities Office, campus services such as police, counseling and health operate. The Academic Affairs office is responsible for the academic mission of the college and encompasses both enrollment services such as the Registrar's Office and support services such as the ACCESS Program and the International Education Office. The Financial Aid Office is responsible for administering all forms of aid available to the students in addition to campus student employment, scholarship endowments and private alternative loans.

## Volunteers hungry to help

By Stephanie Renaud

More than 800 million people are hungry worldwide (Bread for the World) and in the United States more than 75,000 people are homeless on any given night (National Alliance to End Homelessness). The National Student Campaign Against Hunger and Homelessness along with FSC are dedicated to trying to solve this problem. On April 6, students from all across campus came together to join in the 18<sup>th</sup> annual Hunger Cleanup. The cleanup is one of the largest community service and fundraising events in the country.

As Michelle Walton said, "People solve problems. Not money." Many of the clubs and organizations did raise money for the event through hourly sponsorships. The money raised reached well over \$1500. The money will help the cause locally (50% of the money raised goes to local agencies), nationally (35% goes to NSCAHH), and internationally (15% goes to projects).

Soon after all the groups and organizations arrived in the Campus Center, the cleanup began. First speaker, Dr. Claire O'Brien told the story of her brother David's life. He was very dedicated to the issue of hunger and homelessness throughout his life. In his memory, Hunger and Homelessness Week was started.

Next, FSC Councilor Stephen Hay said, "All the little people make a pyramid, and solve a problem." Tullio Neiman then spoke and, finally, Andrea Cimino, Campus Organizer of MassPIRG, thanked the many people involved in the event.

Following the opening remarks, the many groups were sent off to start cleaning. Organizations including SGA, MassPIRG, Upward Bound, and Sigma Pi were present. The groups were sent to different locations, included Catholic Charities, the Lipton Center, Battered Woman's Resources, Gardner VNA, Veteran's Hospice, Mass Addiction Council, the North St. playground, and Three Pyramids. Afterwards many felt good about themselves and what they had done. Student Phil Healy, who helped at the Catholic Charities, said, "It feels great to make a difference."



# Herlihy in line for renovations

By Kristine McCaffrey

Herlihy Hall has always been known as the dorm with the largest rooms on campus. This fall it will be known for having the newest rooms on campus. Office of Campus Living has taken on the project of renovating Herlihy Hall this summer. Last summer Abuchon Hall was renovated and now Herlihy is next on the docket for renovations.

According to Jay Bry, Director of Campus Living, best of efforts will be made to finish renovations to the second and third floors of the residence hall. The first floor has already been renovated. The first priority is to give the bathrooms a facelift, with new showers, sinks and toilets. They are also to be made handicap accessible. The hallways are up for a bit of a change as well. Two of the pillar walls on both ends of the hallways will be removed in order to make the hallway one long corridor. The second priority is to install sprinkler systems in the dorms for the safety of students.

The renovations that have the

student community of Herlihy Hall most excited are the renovations that will be done to the dorm rooms. New floors are going to be put and a new paint job will

be given to the walls. "I'm excited about my fall semester in Herlihy Hall because the renovations are expected to be spectacular," said Kimberly Fernald, a sophomore, currently living in Herlihy who plans on living in the same room next semester.

The now bolted wall attached beds will be replaced with new movable beds that can be bunked or lofted off the floor to create more storage space. These beds will have brand new mattresses. The bedside table block between the beds will be removed giving more space for residents. "I'm glad the beds are going



Can I help whoever is next? Herlihy awaits renovations.

to be set up similar to the way they are in Abuchon Hall. The block that is in-between the L-shaped beds is annoying. Now my roommate and I have more room to move around in," said Fernald.

"I can't wait for new beds," says Rhianna Flagg.

New movable closets will be added as well, containing two cabinets and a large wardrobe space. The rooms will also be furnished with new desks and bureaus.

Jay Bry said that this year changes in rooming assignments will also be different. No premium singles will be available. A premium single is a double size room that

only has one resident living in it. Only designated singles will be available, which are also known as "closet singles" on campus. They only have room for one resident. There is also good news for those living in the end rooms of Herlihy Hall, which are larger than the other rooms in the dormitory. They will not be sold as triples. Three people will not be forced to live in those rooms. If by chance the population of students living on campus grows too fast and there is an over-booking of students, like what happened last fall, students might have to triple up in those rooms for the two week room freeze. But not to worry, they will soon go back to double occupancy rooms for the rest of the school year.

With all these renovation plans underway Office of Campus Living hopes that they will all be completed by the move in day, in late August. There is a lot to be done in only one summer. Students will be crossing their fingers in hopes to return to a brand new home for this up coming school year.

## High speed internet (or lack thereof)

Continued from page 1

the topic. In Jay Bry's letter posted on campus the Resident Halls Administration (RHA) is said to have been "reviewing the situation and working making of policy recommendation that will best addresses residence hall student internet needs with the given resources." In all actuality that is not the case....sort of. The executive board of the RHA is not as involved as stated. A sub-unit under the RHA structure, an internet committee, is working on the so-called behalf of the RHA. The specialized committee is working completely independent of the executive RHA board and its input, which by logic does not make hierarchal sense.

"The executive board members of the RHA are angry that our names is being used under the wrong circumstances," says Lisa Bombino, Vice President of the RHA.

Another surprising note is that Tullio Neiman, Associate Dean of Student Affairs, Advisor to SGA as well as Director of Student Activities, is not involved in such an important issue. This is odd due to that fact of not only his position on campus, but his usual heavy involvement with everything that goes on with FSC. "I have not asked to be involved," states Neiman with a small hint of bewilderment in his familiar voice.

So, what does the future hold? Several options are being looked at and researched to appease the laboring speed (or lack there of). One option being considered is buying data management software that would control how much of the bandwidth is dedicated to certain internet uses. For example, a certain part of bandwidth would be set-aside for Instant Messenger, while another portion is set aside for streaming movies.

A second method of trying to resolve the problem is just purchasing more T1 lines for the students to use. This would allow more bandwidth to be available to the students to use it however they please.

The final decision might be to use a combination of the two options to come to a better situation for the students. This is hopefully to be put in place by the time classes resume in the fall.

A lot of 'maybes' and 'this might fix its' do not have some students convinced that this problem will in fact be resolved in some fashion by the time they come back from a hopefully beautiful New England summer.

"I truly hope that something is done by the time I get back, but I am skeptical about the whole situation and if anything at all will be accomplished," boldly states FSC sophomore Greg Moberg.





Dance class pays off with cool moves at performance.



Dancers shake it up and strike a pose.

Photos by Orlando Claffrey

## 20th Annual Dance Club show had audiences "dancing in their seats"

By Kristine McCaffrey

The 20th Annual FSC Dance Club Show, "Dancin' in the Streets" had the audience dancing in their seats on Sat., April 6 and Tues., April 9 in Weston Auditorium. The approximately three-hour show featured dance performances from the biggest recreational club on campus. The FSC Dance Club, offering over 16 different dance classes to FSC students, is taught, run and performed by students. The club dazzled and entertained all that attended the annual show, which is one of the most popular events on campus each year. The Master of Ceremonies was Tullio Nieman, Director for Student Activities.

On Sat. night, The Hip Pop class kicked things off busting a move to Sarone Krouch's choreography. Krouch also choreographed the dances for his Hip Pop II class as well as a remixed number that featured dance moves from the MTV music awards where N\*Sync and Britney Spears performed. Krouch's moves are anticipated by regular club members and spectators each year. His efforts were nothing less than excellent.

Some old catchy tunes were resurrected this year for the sold out show. Tiffany Koller's beginner tap class wore bright rain ponchos as they shuffled and stepped to "It's Raining Men" around the classes' one male dancer, Justin Krumdick, while Sarah Zawacki and Tara Petruzzi danced a duet to Paula Abdul's "Opposites Attract." Courtney Carroll and Nicole Kelso danced to Jerry Lee Lewis's "Great Balls of Fire," while Advanced Tap threw off their Sunday shoes and got "Footloose." Gene Kelly's "Singing In the Rain" was played during Sarah Zawacki's tap solo, while Into to Funk told the audience "word to your mother" with Vanilla Ice's "Ice Ice Baby".

Dressed in blue jerseys with white numbers and visors Kelso's choreography had the audience tapping their feet and singing along to the early 90's favorite rap diddy. Rebecca Herr's

Jazz I class kicked up their heels with Def Leopard's "Pour Some Sugar on Me."

Costumes and outfits are a very important part of the production and are anticipated by the audience and like each year they didn't disappoint. According to Dance Club members, outfits can get pretty expensive. Brianne Harris, a first year member to the club, is in six dance classes: Beginner Tap, Street Funk, Irish Step, Latin, Hip Pop and Hip Pop II. "The cost of costumes definitely hurt my bank account. For some classes we did not receive our costumes until the first show. Frustration and anger brought some of our spirits down, but as long as we were dancing nothing could stop us," said Harris.

Jazz III really jazzed up their Michael Jackson's "Smooth Criminal" number with signature Michael Jackson hats, while Jazz Funk went with a Britney Spears-like ensemble. They, under the direction of Katie Hoey and Holly Pinette, wore white half shirts and severely holey jeans. Tisa McCarter and Ruth Emely had their girls wearing basketball jerseys in their tribute to the late R&B/Pop singer, Aaliyah. Jazz II took a funky approach to their wardrobe, wearing black tank tops and army fatigues. Beginner/Intermediate Lyrical looked adorable in their petite dresses while Lyrical danced as sophisticatedly as they looked wearing long maroon dresses. Irish Step brought some school spirit, as well as some Irish luck, to the stage with their yellow and green dresses. The hats made another appearance in Street Funk's number with jackets and ties as accessories.

"Magic Ben" Reed entertained the audience with a magic trick, using boxers and brief underwear, oddly enough. Reed, while yucking it up



Magic Ben

on stage dancing to Divinyl's "I Touch Myself" and showing his own boxers, made for an entertaining sight making the audience later ask "How'd he do that?"

Other favorite performances included dances from classes such as Latin, Modern, and many solos from senior Dance Club members. The show ended with the officers and teachers dancing to the newer version of Marvin Gaye's "What's Going On" covered by various popular artists of today.

The dancers looked polished, sharp and wore smiles that lit up the auditorium. They, like all great performers, make it look easy, but of course it is a lot of work on the dancers and teachers. Rhianna Flagg, FSC senior and active participant in Jazz II said "The teachers pulled off the show great, despite the fact that a lot of dances were not completed until a week before the show." Flagg also added that "We all had longer songs this year, which meant we had more time on stage to show everyone what we're made of."

Brianne Harris agrees with Flagg and added, "It is frustrating for the dancer to learn dance moves on the day of dress rehearsal. But I can also relate and see how hard it is for the choreographers to teach classes when often times the dancers do not always bother to show up for class."

Flagg and Harris both credited the behind the scenes crew, dancers and the audience. Harris says that she doubts she will be in six dance classes again next year, but is looking forward to working with her fellow classmates and meeting new ones.

Students, faculty, family and friends will surely be looking forward to next year's dance show along with Harris. The Dance Club members get better with each year. Here's to 20 more great years!



# Plenty of 'Room' to 'Panic'

By Roger Roy

The "Panic Room" is the latest from director David Fincher ("Se7en", "Fight Club") and writer David Koepp ("Stir Of Echoes"). "Panic Room" is set in a four-story, New York City apartment where newly divorced Meg Altman (Jodie Foster) and her thirteen-year-old diabetic daughter Sarah (newcomer Kristen Stewart) move. The only thing different about this house is the panic room build by very paranoid former owner of the house. In due time, three burglars (Forest Whitaker, Dwight Yokam and Jared Leto) break into the house. The obvious choice for Meg and Sarah is to hide in the panic room. Seems like a good idea until what the burglars want is in that room. The plot and action of the movie picks up as mom and daughter struggle to keep the burglars out while trying to remain alive in such tight quarters.

David Fincher has always taken on hard to make projects. "Panic Room" is the former music video director's fifth attempt at film. He first directed the hard to watch Alien 3 sequel. Then the scripts got better and he directed the thriller "Se7en." Fincher moved onto the Michael Douglas suspense "The Game." But it was Fincher's next movie "Fight Club" that started to show his more creative side. In "Panic Room" Fincher's visually dark tones are shown. There are all but three daylight scenes in this movie. His use of computer graphics was prominent, useful, but they grew tiresome after a bit.

Jodie Foster has returned after a three-year absence from the screen. She plays Meg, the newly-divorced-trying-to-move-on-with-her-life-mother. Meg has gained custody of Sarah and decides she wants to move into a way-too-big house. Foster has always been good in what ever movie she is in, sometimes the movie is hard to



watch, but it is not because of Foster. In "Panic Room" she is the same. Her role in this film is just another turn showing us how far Foster's talent goes.

Leto, Whitaker and Yokam as the three burglars were a good choice, but the characters themselves were pointless at times. There were times where they were as creepy as they were believable. But then there was some unneeded humor between the three, it grew tiresome. Leto as the rookie named "Junior," how clever, was probably the most irritating. He was overdrawn

from the beginning. Since most of the movie takes place over one night, the characters were not going to have depth, but his character did strike a chord by being annoying. Dwight Yokam, that's right a country singer playing a sadist. I am sure he has written a song about it. Besides all the jokes you can think of, he was well played. He

was the mean bad guy (won't let me use another word, freakin' censors). His role was not overused, but there was a try for an air of mystery with him, it didn't work so well. Call him only by his first name, but no more. Yokam's character "Raoul," wears a mask pretty much throughout the entire film. It created a semi-sense of mystery, but his character building was wasted at points. Now there is Whitaker. Probably the levelheaded one of the bunch. He has a family, he has his reasons for committing this crime. He is sympathetic at points as well. His character was built with some thought. But then again, his character was easy to build.

Overall this movie was admirable. The pacing, the lighting, the visuals was used well. But the story just ran a little long and was slow at times. The build up should have been faster, quicker, and the characters should have been built in a different way. But this film is worth seeing. "Panic Room" is not scary, but very creepy.

## 'Zorba!' entertains FSC crowd

By Sharlene K. Gugarty

A small village on the Isle of Crete has a new resident. Niko, newly arrived from America to claim his inheritance of a mine, infuses the poor villagers with hope for their future. Opening the abandoned mine will bring jobs to the desperate peasants who have seen nothing but poverty and political upheaval for many years.

This is a village lost in the ways and superstitions of the ancients. It is a place where everyone knows everyone's secrets. It is a village with its own laws, its own morals, its own code of honor and a passion

for vengeance. Niko, a teacher and scholar, enters the village with an older man he meets at the dock. This man, wise in the ways of the people of Crete and knowledgeable about mining, is Zorba.

"Zorba!" The Musical was recently performed by members of the English, Industrial Technology and Humanities Departments. This was the first musical produced at FSC, but hopefully it will not be the last.

When one thinks of a musical, first things to come to mind might

Continued on page 8

## FSC's 'Visions' of greatness

"Visions '02," a display works by Communications/Media students at FSC will be on view Apr. 26th-June 1 in the FSC Campus Center Art Gallery. An opening reception is scheduled for Apr. 26th at 5:30 p.m. in the Hammond Art Gallery. Juried student work in photography, graphic design and technical communications will be on display. Film and video selections will be screened on Apr. 26th at 7:30 p.m. in Weston Auditorium.

FSC's Communications/Media Department has come to be known as one of the finest in the Northeast. Students have won a number of regional and national awards, and graduates of the program hold high level positions from New York to Hollywood.

The Art Gallery is open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday, Friday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., closed Saturday, and on Sunday, noon to 9 p.m. Admission is free and the community is invited to attend.



## Niko puts on show at 'Zorba!'

Continued from page 7

be "The Sound of Music" or "Okla-homa!"

"Zorba!" is not that sort of happy, smiling endeavor. This is a story of life. The villagers act as chorus for this Greek tragedy, tying together the movement of the play and effortlessly moving the audience through the action. Leader Natalie Wisenbaker tells the audience at the beginning of the play that "Life is what happens while you're waiting to die."

For the people in the village, life will hopefully change when Niko (FSC junior Nicholas Howe) opens the mine. In the meantime, Niko and Zorba acquaint themselves with the people of the village. There is a widow, played masterfully by Sarah Billington, young and melancholy, forced by village tradition to remain in mourning black. She is loved from afar by a village boy whose family objects to his infatuation. The widow acts as caretaker for Mimiko (Traci Bartlett), a small orphan boy shunned and ridiculed by the villagers. Madame Hortense (the deliciously trumpy Kathleen Coughlin) is a lusty woman who offers rooms for rent (and perhaps more). In classic Greek tradition, she is both comic and tragic. Having had her way with admirals from all the countries who had recently occupied Greece, she now loves Zorba. Zorba, ever the realist, loves her in return. In a wonderful performance, FSC's Randal Hennemuth is both lecherous and lovable as Zorba, the affable Greek always willing to tell you a story-whether you want to hear it or not.

Niko is unfamiliar with the ways of the peasants. He becomes enamored of the widow, not knowing where his interest in her will lead. As he climbs the stairs to the widow's rooms, the village boy who loves her observes from the shad-

ows. Crushed by the apparent loss of the woman he loves to Niko, the boy kills himself.

In one of the most impressive moments of the play, Niko and the widow perform a delicate dance of mirror images. With the Leader between them, they dance and sing of their love beginning. Though they reach for each other throughout the dance, they never touch. Without using words, the dance conveys the truth that they will never truly be together. This is evident as the widow is murdered in the village square by the father of the village boy. This is the reality of village life. An eye for an eye.

It is Zorba who understands and poignantly explains it all to Niko. Zorba reveals that once he was married and once he had a son. When his son died, Zorba danced. If he hadn't danced then, he explains, he would have gone mad.

Madame Hortense, too, falls victim to the ways of the village. Ill with tuberculosis, she lays dying in her bed while a chorus of crows surrounds her plotting to steal all her worldly possessions. Niko is horrified. Zorba explains that Madame will have no need for things when she is dead. This is life. Together, Niko and Zorba dance.

A production of this magnitude requires the work of many hands. The students in the set construction crew, under the leadership of Cap Corduan, created an authentic village square complete with crumbling stucco walls and grape arbors. Choreographer Cassandra Tzimas created dances which enhanced the production, but never overpowered it. Dr. James Leve's musical direction and accompaniment, the authentic costumes and accents, all combined to truly portray the flavor of this village and its people. Everyone involved in this ambitious production is to be congratulated.

## 'Changing Lanes' worth the trip

By Roger Roy

"Changing Lanes" is the story of what happens one day in New York when a young lawyer named Gavin Banek (Ben Affleck) and an insurance salesman-recovering alcoholic-father of two named Doyle Gipson (Samuel L. Jackson) are involved in a small automobile accident on F.D.R. Drive and their mutual road rage escalates into a feud.

Directed by the director of "Notting Hill", I thought two things. A.)

They were going to make this movie bad only because the trailer was good. Which has happened many times over or B.) This movie was going to be "Falling Down" just with two guys who have rage. To my surprise it was neither.

This thriller was designed in a new but seemingly has been done before way. It had two stories going on with the two main characters, with each other main character being the antagonist for the other. Each one hurting the other when they go down.

The story plays off rather quickly with the accident. Affleck busy on the cell phone he side swipes Jackson on the FDR. Affleck being too busy to swap information tries to give Jackson a blank check. But Jackson wanted to do everything all legal and proper. While Affleck is quick to make a dash, he leaves behind an important folder for a trial he has to go deal with and Jackson finds the folder and he uses it to his advantage. But while Jackson is stuck on the FDR, he is late for a custody battle with his wife for his children, she wants to move them to Oregon. When Jackson arrives, the trial is ending and he wasn't there. This makes Jackson have his rage.

This movie was not like "Falling Down". It was pretty tame, more of a psychological thriller. The only thing that resembles "Falling Down" is the dad's love for his kid (Jackson has two kids in this case). There were moments where I would have rather been watching Michael Douglas shooting a rocket launcher into a pipe lined to a construction sight rather than seeing Ben Affleck thinking why he just didn't swap insurance information with Jackson. Jackson, always an excellent actor,

is great as Gibson even if he has performances have been better before. But surprisingly, in this film Affleck's acting actually seems to surpass Jackson's in this amazing performance that is probably the one



of the best we have seen from Affleck so far.

The thing I liked about "Changing Lanes" was that there was no clear cut "good guy" or "bad guy." Neither Jackson or Affleck is entirely at comfort with the reaction of revenge and one-uppances, but they continue to do it.

The director and editor (Roger Michell and Christopher Tellefsen, respectively) have done a great job of switching back and forth between the two men as they act and react. The movie does veer over the top at times, but it's tempered with the occasional laugh. Since Michell is best known for his smash comedy, "Notting Hill", it's not surprising that these few and far between moments actually have more honest impact than the drama of ethics.

"Changing Lanes" is worth the drive to the theater since most of today's movies are effortless and lame.



# The cast and crew of Zorba! share their experiences

By Eileen A. Hamm

The recent production of *ZORBA! The Musical* by the Fitchburg State College English Department, Industrial Technology Department, and Humanities Department was a resounding success. The show was a major undertaking by these three departments that began in December 2001 with auditions. Once the cast was chosen, the participants met in the lobby of Weston for the first read through of the script. This began a long arduous journey to opening night at McKay Auditorium on April 10, 2002. This author asked some of the cast, crew, and management what the process had been like for them from that first reading to opening night. Here are some of their comments and thoughts.

Kathleen Coughlin (Hortense) felt that at the first read through she had no concept of her character. When she spoke with Director Richard McElvain, she found the whole experience overwhelming. In her own words, Kathleen felt that "Hortense is so everything that I'm not and would never want to be." The whole process scared her especially because she has worked with Richard McElvain before and knows that he has very high expectations. Prior to this show, Kathleen always relied on her voice and her musical ability. This role required more acting and she had to play an older person. She felt this experience is a true epiphany – that she can do this! She was reassured to know that she could do the work that the director demanded. By opening night, Kathleen was in love with her character. As she said, "Hortense and I have an understanding."

Director Richard McElvain had a million different thoughts and feelings about the production. He compares it to "blazing a path through the jungle. This has never been done before at Fitchburg State College." He said that he had to examine each and every step and constantly ask questions like "How do we go from here?" Complications arose with scheduling rehearsals for music, dance, acting, and working with cast availability and rehearsal spaces. Questions regarding holding separate rehearsals for each element or combining rehearsals arose. McElvain felt that developing this production was like putting together a mosaic stone by stone. His main concern at the first read through was "How are we going to get these sweet college students to become Mediterranean animals?" In the rehearsals that followed he had to clear a path for them. His main task was to get them into their bodies and out of their heads. His feelings about opening night? He was absolutely thrilled. "They blossomed! I am very pleased!"

Cap Corduan (Scenic Designer) had a daunting task set for her and had a very difficult time with this semester's project. The Stagecraft and Theater Production class is normally responsible for building the set for productions. Unfortunately, there was no Stagecraft class this semester. As a result, Cap used volunteers and set up a lab time on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. She had planned to use cast members to help build the set, but the cast schedules for rehearsals for music, dance, and acting, left no time for these students to help with the set. As a result, there are primarily four students who are responsible for building the set: Beau Turgeon,

Marty Silk, Micah Hatch, and Jeremy Hutton (a student from last semester's Stagecraft class who became Cap's assistant). In addition, Gabbi Chestina (a Technical Theater Major) came in and did the painting and stuff. Christina Bontempo and Emily

Ragusa also put in a lot of their time along with Diane Catrambone and Chris Fadden. Her little corps of volunteers were responsible for building the set, taking the set apart, and moving it to McKay Auditorium in the space of a couple of days. In addition to moving the complete set, her crew had to also bring in lights and the equipment and the dance floor. In her exhausted state, Cap expressed relief that the show came together. Her crew worked very hard and made giant leaps. "A musical is a huge undertaking for any program; if you have no staff to facilitate it, it is even harder."

Dr. James Leve (Music Director) spent weeks working with the cast members as a group and on an individual basis for their musical numbers. The musical score is rich and was a challenge for the cast, but the end result was very cohesive. Dr. Leve found that working with the students was the most "exhilarating experience of his life."

Nicholas Howe (Nikos) felt that the rehearsals were a very long, arduous process. He was emotionally challenged and found the role to be very fulfilling. The character was a different role from the romantic leads he normally plays, and he found that this character had a bigger range. Throughout the rehearsal process he found different facets to his character.

Traci Bartlett (Mimiko) was cast as a young boy and knew from the first night of readings that this role would require a strong emotional commitment. She felt that she had taken a long journey of small discoveries and learned to trust everyone around her. When asked how she felt about opening night, she responded: "It was rocking."

Sarah Billington (Widow) said that personally, she just wanted to do the show because it would be her last show. She fell in love with the script and had to overcome a lot of fears because the play is a musical and she had never sang in front of people before. She commented that, "You cannot predict a Richard McElvain show; I learned a lot from him and was able to build a lot of confidence." Through this educational process, she became the character.

Cassandra Tzimos (Choreographer) was overwhelmed with the amount of dancing she saw when she read the script the first day. This was a great learning process for



After hard work the cast has nothing but good things to say.

her and a wonderful opportunity to partake in the reality of being Greek with that much dancing. She had quite a challenge because while the script and the score were there, the choreography was not. She literally made something out of nothing. She commented that "Dances are my paint and the actors are my easels." A lot of the cast are not dancers, but, she felt comfortable with everyone because they were all friends and supported each other even when mistakes were made.

Beau Turgeon (Set Construction Crew) said that the first three weeks the crew consisted of him, Jeremy Hutton, and Cap Corduan. Once others came to help it went pretty smoothly and quickly. Beau has done musicals before, but has never built as much of the set as he did for this production. It was lots of work and he

was amazed at the different patterns Cap applied.

Randal Hennemuth (Zorba) knew that energy would drive this show. He had good vibes about the show right from the first reading. His process was extensive and he had to literally let Zorba's thoughts invade his everyday thoughts. "Zorba teaches you life. I needed to learn before I could teach it."

Jena Paolilli (Father Zahoria – priest, and an older woman) says she had no idea who she might be playing when the cast went through the first reading. "That night I read three men and one woman – none of whom I ended up being." She ran into a number of difficulties playing a Greek priest because she had to get into that mentality while she was a Catholic. The next hardest part was coming up with a voice for the priest and then remembering to keep her stomach out for the whole show as the priest and the older woman. In spite of the number of exhausting rehearsals (many of which were separate), she felt that the show went amazingly well.

Amber P. Knight (Stage Manager) was overwhelmed the first night when she realized how busy she was going to be. The rehearsals schedule was hectic, but well organized. She felt the cast came together with lots of energy and that there was never a dull moment during the whole process.

Natalie Wisenbaker (Leader of Chorus) saw the script and thought it would be a challenging play. She was concerned for her character because there was no true definition. She struggled with losing her voice during dress rehearsals and had to compensate by focusing on the character and not the music. As a result, she found that character on opening night and finally felt she had a purpose. Her comment was that "It has been a fun role and it was the first time that I have been in a show where I am the oldest person."



# Crosscurrents delivers dynamic and radiant performance

By Robin L. Kanter

On Saturday April 20, 2002 Fitchburg State College hosted another one of their outstanding performances from CenterStage. The show was Crosscurrents. It was dynamic and radiant. The show started with a number called Paradigm, which is from 2000. It featured seven dancers. The moves were delicate and the music was classical. For this number they danced to *Piano Concerto for Two Pianos and Strings in C Major* by Johann Sebastian Back.

The next performance was Altis Ballet and this featured only three dancers. It showed a series of photographs depicting a mythological fantasy where women participate in the Olympic



Crosscurrents, and evening of modern and contemporary dance.

Games in Ancient Greece, defying the law. This piece was dedicated to women. It celebrated the courage and strong voices women have. Tom Tykwer composed the music. The moves were very steady and very strong. This was very emotional and showed great power to women.

Sonata was up next and was originally created in 1919.

This featured an older crowd of women as dancers. The moves were elegant and divine. *Piano Sonata in C Minor* was the piece chosen. Ludwig Beethoven composed this. The costumes were this brilliant red and very classy. Jane McFadden and Rebecca Rice designed them.

Rebecca Rice not only designed some of the costumes but she also choreographed much of the performance. Her talents were seen much during the show.

A 2002 premiere of the dance *Mirage* was seen. It involved three dancers, two female and one male. *Mirage* is a new work created as an empathetic tribute to those who lost a loved one on a fateful September morning in New York City in 2001.

The show ended with an outstanding number called *Illuminations* from 1999. Rebecca Rice choreographed it. This consisted of six movements. Four boys and six girls. The costumes were amazing and the music was perfect. The show ended with a huge success. We hope that they will embrace our presence again next year.

# AIDS memorial quilt brings awareness to FSC

By Samantha Baker

In 1981 the first cases of AIDS-related diseases were diagnosed. 159 people died in the U.S. from AIDS-related causes that year. The following year, the number rose to 625 deaths. In 2000, almost 20 years later, the number dramatically increased to 438,795 AIDS-related deaths in the U.S. To many people these are just numbers we hear all the time, but as one panel of the AIDS Quilt states, "AIDS is a disease with a human face." From April 8-12, 64 of the 44,000 3-by-6-ft. panels of the AIDS Memorial Quilt were displayed in the M&M Lounge to remember those who lost their lives and to raise awareness about the deadly disease.

Some names on the panels may have been more familiar than others. Panels were made in memory of Pedro Zamora, Arthur Ashe, and Freddie Mercury. Other names may not be as familiar to us, but they all have a story to tell. John P. Hardin was a son, father, nephew, uncle, friend, athlete, and musician. David F. Morin, a Massachusetts native,

had pictures and messages from friends and family. Children's drawings were included on a panel for Pamie Annaloro-Blackington. A panel to remember Donna M. Vega included angels, hearts, and pictures. A blue ribbon stating "Very Special Son", several Reese's wrappers and many pictures were sewn on a panel to remember David R. LaPrade, whose mother also attended the opening of the display.

While many of the names were people who were in their 30's and 40's, AIDS does not discriminate. Troy Anthony Blocker only lived to see 8 birthdays. The panel to remember him included wrestling figures, pictures, a baseball cap, and tee shirt. There was also a message, "Blood saved him, and blood took him away."

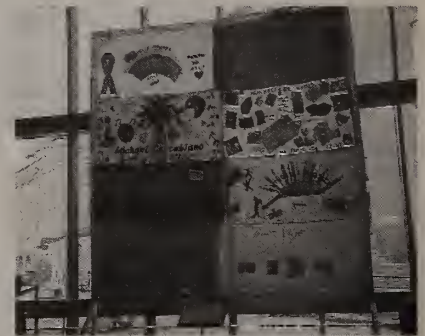
A Girl Scout Troop in New York made a panel to "Remember the Babies." "Amityville Cares about AIDS Babies" had patterns of Big Bird, a baby bottle, a box of toys, and blocks sewn on its panel. A family picture, a Precious Moments blanket, and messages from family

members were included on a panel for Breannah Hope Dore. She only lived 2 days. Jasmine, another victim of the disease, had only lived "8 short months." A panel remembering her life included handprints on a checkered cloth.

The AIDS Memorial Quilt has touched everyone who has witnessed it in different ways. For some it has raised awareness about the deadly disease, while others have remembered loved ones who have been affected. Beth Slavinskis "was very touched and learned so much about [AIDS] and how it touched people's lives." She also said "it was sad to see people start crying before they even walked in."

Nicole Kelso said, "it was a wonderful idea and enlightened the whole campus."

Shane Franzen, who coordinated the display, said he "hopes it touched someone." He was also amazed by the many connections the Quilt had with people on campus. Franzen was "thrilled about the support." Many people from campus and the



The AIDS quilt continues its legacy at FSC.

community visited the memorial. Not only that, money was collected for the local NAMES project in Worcester and many teddy bears and other stuffed animals were donated for children who have AIDS. Cauley's Garden Shop also supported the memorial by donating the flowers that were displayed in the M&M Lounge.

There are already plans for a larger display next year. For more information about the AIDS Memorial Quilt, you can visit their website at [www.aidsquilt.org](http://www.aidsquilt.org).



# Rivier falls to Falcon weapons

By Orlando Claffey

Coming off back-to-back one-run losses, the Lady Falcons hosted Rivier with every intention get momentum going in their direction again. Undefeated in the MASCAC, FSC looked for a win going into a four game stretch of conference games.

The sun was beginning its trek toward the horizon behind Michelle Bergeron as she took the mound against the Raiders. With seven wins, she is FSC's top pitcher, and again proved how dominant she can be.

In only six innings, Bergeron struck out 14 Rivier batters, giving up only a bunt single the entire game. Often striking out the side, she overpowered the Raider lineup and allowing the Falcon's offensive to swing freely.

Led by Joanne Pratt, FSC unloaded on the visit-



Photo by Orlando Claffey

With her arm flying in every direction, Michelle Bergeron struck out 14 Rivier batters and only gave up one hit. The Falcons will need their ace and Lindsey Martins to pitch well if they want to win the conference.

ing pitchers, scoring eight runs. The sophomore knocked in three of those runs, and scored three times in her 3 for 3 day.

The combination of Bergeron's pitching, and the Falcon's offensive firepower demoralized the Raider squad, and their coach, who seemed to find something to complain about every inning. In the end, FSC walked away with an 8-0 win and fire in their eyes.

The win has sparked a 10-game winning streak, five against conference opponents. With a 10-0 MASCAC record this season, the program has gotten out to its best start ever. Add to that the exceptional play of Lindsey Martins, who not only set FSC's single season home run mark when she hit her seventh against New England College, but has also been a reliable starter compiling an 8-4 record.

Even with their pitchers throwing well, and their potent offense, the Falcons are only one game away of last year's conference champion Bridgewater State. The two teams will face off in a double header April 27, the final game of the regular season. The first game will begin at noon and will be played here.



Photo by Orlando Claffey

The Falcon offense hit well against Rivier, scoring 8 runs in only six innings. The outburst helped win the first game for their current 10-game winning streak.

## The Buffs hard defense wins on hard-wood

By Skip Daily IV

The Buffs and Honking Spaghettis stormed through the regular season and playoffs to advance to the Indoor Field Hockey Championship Game.

It was a tight battle, with intensity seen on few fields. The Honking Spaghettis captained by Jen Currier played tough throughout the game, but could only manage two goals against the Buffs' defense (Jon Whittemore 1, and James Lipscombe 1).

The Buff's captained by Kelly Gorey and Angella Buffington would not be denied. Stacy Cronin and Brian Spencer each netted early goals, but the game was tide at two with under one minute to play when Spencer blasted a one timer past the Spaghettis' goalie Pat Demsey for the lead and eventual Championship winning goal.

After the game, Kelly Gorey of the Buffs was quoted as saying; "I just want to thank all the great teams in the league. It took years of preparation, but winning this Championship means the world to me."

### Falcon Scoreboard

#### Baseball (9-20)(4-10)

Mass. College 8, FSC 2  
Mass. College 9, FSC 2  
Franklin Pierce 17, FSC 8  
FSC 13, Becker 9  
FSC 6, Salem 5

#### Softball (20-8)(10-0)

FSC 4, Mass. College 3  
FSC 3, Mass. College 2  
FSC 10, NE College 2  
FSC 5, NE College 0  
FSC 4, Elms 1

### Next Week:

Softball's Playoff Run  
Baseball's Season  
Photo Year in review  
Point Sports Athletes  
of the year

Join the Point Sports team next semester. We are looking writers, photographers, or groupies to help cover the FSC sports community.

Work with a great staff and interact with some of the schools top athletes. If interested, con-

tact us at PointSports@Hot-mail.com, call x6062, or visit the Point Office in the basement of Hammond, Thursday at 3:30.

No experience required and little commitment is needed.



## FSC comes out for the Boston Marathon

By Robin L. Kanter

On April 15, 2002 Boston, Massachusetts held its 106th running of the Boston Marathon. The subway was packed with enthused fans waiting to get that first glimpse of a runner. Now for those of you who rode the T probably had the same experience. I boarded the train waiting for the conductor to say that magic words, "Copley next", but unfortunately, those words were never said.

Instead we heard the conductor say, "Copley is closed today due to the Boston Marathon". Now I do not ride the T very often so I was quite upset to hear this news.

I got off at Arlington and no clue where I was. At first, I was afraid to ask someone where I should go because of everything that is happening in the world. However, when I had no idea where I was it was time for me to ask. I asked an officer and he lead me in the right direction.

By now my stomach was growling because I had not eaten, due to the confusing subway trouble. We stopped in at the Hard Rock Café in Boston. The food was delectable and the service was exquisite.



Photo by Orlando Claffey

Racheal O'Brien (F), Lynn Hurley (S) and Andrea Nykiel (C) run through Wellesley Center during the Boston Marathon. The three Fitchburg students helped to make up the field of 16,900 runners that ran the 26 miles from Hopkinton to the capital city.

After we ate, we had to get my hands on some of that authentic Boston Marathon Official Gear. I stopped at the Official Boston Marathon Gear tent and I got a very nice tee shirt. Now all that was left was to see those runners.

Now walking through Boston can be quite the adventure. The weather was beautiful and everyone was friendly to each other. I walked around all the detours and found myself getting nowhere. We finally got to a spot where we thought we could see some runner, but we was wrong. Nevertheless, I did get to see some runners. What if they were all ready wearing their tin foil blankets for completing their run and could barely stand, I got to see a run-

ner right?

Well, it was still an awesome experience and some memories were definitely made. Seeing the expressions on the runners, faces are priceless. I recommend that everyone should go next year. You get lots of exercise, and the memories last a lifetime.

Two train tickets from Fitchburg to Boston Roundtrip \$22. Four Tokens for the Subway \$4. Lunch at the Hard Rock plus tip \$25. Official Boston Marathon Tee Shirt \$18. Walking the streets of Boston with one of your best friends from college and having a great day.....Absolutely priceless.

## Celtics return to the playoffs and face old rival

BOSTON, April 21 (Ticker) -- Allen Iverson carried the Philadelphia 76ers for one quarter. Paul Pierce shouldered the Boston Celtics' offense for the entire game.

Pierce had 31 points and 11 rebounds and Antoine Walker scored 20 points as the Boston Celtics overcame Iverson's return to defeat the 76ers, 92-82, in Game One of their Eastern Conference first-round series.

Iverson missed the final 14 games of the regular season after

suffering a broken hand against Boston on March 22. He looked like the reigning the Most Valuable Player in the first quarter, but Pierce played like a candidate for the award thereafter.

Iverson scored Philadelphia's first four points, nailing a jumper just four seconds into the game before sinking a pair of free throws 66 seconds later. He scored 15 points on 4-of-6 shooting in the first 12 minutes, but Pierce was nearly as impressive.

The Sixers shot just 3-of-19 (15.8%) from the field in the third quarter.

Pierce scored nine points in the opening period and completed a three-point play to erase the Sixers' final lead and forge a 28-28 tie with 20 seconds left. Walter McCarty nailed a half-court shot to beat the first-quarter buzzer and give the Celtics lead for good.

"I knew it was going to be on track but I didn't know it was going to go in," McCarty said. "It really

lifts the team up and gives us a little bit of momentum."

Iverson, who did not start the second quarter, could not regain his form after returning with 8:30 remaining in the first half. He missed his final nine shots and finished with 20 points, making just five free throws in the final three quarters.

In his first playoff game, Pierce made 10-of-25 shots from the floor, including 3-of-8 3-pointers, and was showered by chants of "MVP!"